

Appln. No. 10/053,596  
Amdt. dated December 5, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of August 6, 2003

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The August 6, 2003 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled and amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

**PRIOR ART REJECTION AND ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over USP 2,774,935 (Rademakers et al.) in view of JP 11-354344 (Yamamoto et al).

The Examiner's indication that claims 4-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged and appreciated.

In response, claim 4 is cancelled and the limitations of claim 4 are incorporated into claim 1. In view of the incorporation of limitations from claim 4 into claim 1, claim 1

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is in form for immediate allowance. The dependency of claim 5 is changed from "4" to --1-- in view of the cancellation of claim 4. In view of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 5 and 6 are in form for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner's indication that claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 are withdrawn from further consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention is acknowledged. Claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 are cancelled and will be pursued in a divisional application.

\* \* \* \* \*

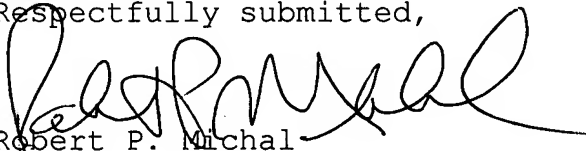
If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Petition for Extension of Time